



The Best is yet to Come



No sooner had God finished speaking to and cursing that crafty serpent than he turned to address the woman and the man, still waiting for the worst. God had declared that they would die the day they ate from the tree. Now it was their time for judgment. And judgment did come, but not in the manner they were expecting.

To Eve, God said, "I will increase your pain in childbearing, and your desire will be to rule over your husband, but he will rule over you."

To Adam, God said, "The ground is now cursed because of you, and through painful work will you be able to eat from it. The ground will produce thorns and thistles for you, and your work will be tireless, from this day until you draw your final breath." Adam and Eve knew that this wasn't good news, but they waited breathlessly for what would come next. Certainly, they were on the verge of receiving the just penalty for disobeying the only law of God.

I imagine the Devil must have been excited as he waited for God to follow through with his promise to put the young couple to death.

But then something unexpected happened.

God took an animal from the garden and killed it before the couple. He took the animal's hairy skin and made clothing for Adam and Eve. They removed the fig leaves they had been wearing since they had eaten of the fruit and put on the covering God supplied. It didn't seem to be a fair exchange at all. They were the ones who had broken the law. They were the ones who were supposed to die. They were the ones who had dishonored God.

Satan must have squirmed in his scaly skin. He must have thought to himself, "Wait a minute, this isn't what was supposed to happen. You were supposed to kill them. They were supposed to die. Death was supposed to come into the world today."

But you see, dear reader, even though we haven't left the third page of the story, we have seen the entire story laid out for us perfectly. Let me see if I can make it clearer.

God created Adam and Eve to be "like him" and to bear his image. God made them perfect and placed them in a perfect garden. He gave them one rule and one rule only, a single law, "Don't eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Satan, who hated God and wanted to overthrow his plans, tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God, and it didn't take much convincing on his part. So the young couple disbelieved what God had said and followed their own desires instead.

When they realized they had sinned, they made a covering for themselves, but what we do to cover our sin won't ever be enough. God is the only one who can cover sin and shame. And finally, just when Adam and Eve should have died, God killed something in their place so that Adam and Eve could have life, and Satan's wicked plans could be defeated.

We will eventually find that everything true here in the garden is still true today. People disobey God. Satan is still a liar. People still deserve death. And God has still made a way for people to be saved from death. But here I go again, getting ahead of myself.

Don't worry.

The best is yet to come.